

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE STSC: FEBRUARY 22 HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: OUTER SPACE STSC ON FEB. 22 DISCUSSED (A) IS-SUE OF UN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE, AND (B) UN SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM. NON-ALIGNED GROUP INTRODUCED INFORMAL PAPER SUPPORTING SECRETARIAT SUGGESTION FOR UN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE IN 1980, PROPOSING THAT TOPIC BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE THIS JUNE, AND THAT 1978 STSC INCLUDE 3RD WEEK TO BEGIN PRELIMINARY WORK ON IT; CANADA INTRODUCED INFORMAL PAPER PROPOSING INSTEAD THAT SECRETARIAT UP-DATE ITS STUDY AND THAT MATTER BE DEFERRED UNTIL 1978 STSC. DRAFTING GROUP, CHAIRED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IS ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE THE TWO POSITIONS. REMOTE SENSING WG WILL SUBMIT COMPOSITE PAPER ON REMOTE SENSING AND OTHER SUBJECTS TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEB. 23. END SUMMARY.

2. UN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE: FEB. 22 SESSION CONFIRMED CONTINUING SHARP DIVERGENCE BETWEEN NON-ALIGNED PROPONENTS OF UN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE, AND WESTERN/EE STATES PLUS NIGERIA WHICH FAVOR DEFERRAL OF ANY DECISION TO HOLD A CONFERENCE PENDING RESULTS OF UNCSTD AS WELL AS OTHER UPCOMING GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATELY-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES. CHAIRMAN CARVER HAS ASKED INFORMAL DRAFTING GROUP, HEADED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TO TRY TO RECONCILE THESE TWO APPROACHES. PEREK, CHIEF OF UN SECRETARIAT OUTER SPACE DIVISION, INFORMED SUBCOMMITTEE THAT, ON BASIS OF STATEMENTS AT VARIOUS UN MEETINGS SINCE 1974, HE ESTIMATES AT LEAST 45 COUNTRIES SUPPORT THE HOLDING OF AN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE WHILE ONLY 9 PREFER UNCSTD OP-

TION, AND ANOTHER 5 BELIEVE THE MATTER REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY.

3. NON-ALIGNED GROUP -- ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, CHILE, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, MEXICO AND PAKISTAN -- INTRODUCED INFORMAL WORKING PAPER A(1) SUPPORTING THE SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTION IN A/AC.105/179 THAT 1980 BE CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE DATE FOR OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE. THE PAPER FURTHER PROPOSES THAT "(A) THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD INCLUDE AN ITEM 'CONVENING OF UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE MATTERS TO BE HELD IN 1980' SO THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER THE SUBJECT AND MAKE SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD TO THE 32ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE CONVENING OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, (B) THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN 1978 SHOULD MEET FOR THREE WEEKS FUNCTIONING FOR ABOUT A WEEK EXCLUSIVELY AS A WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE WITH A MANDATE TO STUDY AND REPORT ON ALL PROCEDURAL MATTERS RELATED TO SUCH CONFERENCE, SUCH AS PRELIMINARY WORK ON DRAFTING OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS."

4. AUSTRIA OBSERVED THAT MANY DELEGATIONS JUSTIFIABLY WANTED TO KNOW WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES ON AN OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE BEFORE DECIDING TO HOLD IT. EMPHASIZING THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE "ACTION-ORIENTED," HE THEN PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF OBJECTIVES: PRESENTATION/EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL IMPACT OF SPACE PROGRAMS ON (A) FOOD PRODUCTION, (B) PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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SPACE PROGRAMS FOR LDCS; (C) ELABORATION OF GUIDELINES TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ON-GOING SPACE PROGRAMS; AND (D) OBJECTIVES AND PLANS FOR FUTURE SPACE PROJECTS. HE ADDED THAT ON BASIS OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR UNCSTD, IT APPEARED DOUBTFUL THAT THESE MATTERS WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THAT FORUM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO NON-ALIGNED PAPER, CANADA INTRODUCED INFORMAL PAPER A(2) PROPOSING INSTEAD THAT STSC REPORT COULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE SUBCOMMITTEE AGREED THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE SEVERAL REASONS FOR HOLDING A SECOND OUTER SPACE CONFERENCE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME: (B) SOME DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT SPACE ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED IN OTHER FORA, AND NOTE THAT SEVERAL GLOBAL CONFERENCES INCLUDING UNCSTD ARE PLANNED, (C) UN FINANCIAL RESOURCES HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND (D) THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARIAT MONITOR ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UN AND BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO THE QUESTION AND PRESENT AN UP-DATED REPORT TO ITS 1978

SESSION.

6. US, FRG, ITALY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND NIGERIA SPOKE OUT IN FAVOR OF DEFERRING ANY DECISION FOR A SEPARATE CONFERENCE PENDING OUTCOME OF UNCSTD. US NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO UNCSTD, UPCOMING WATER AND DESERTIFICATION CONFERENCES AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON SPACE ISSUES (COSPAR, IAF, MICHIGAN INSTITUTE OR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH) WILL PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SPACE DEVELOPMENTS. CZECHOSLOVAKIA MADE STRONG STATEMENT AGAINST PROLIFERATION OF UN CONFERENCES. NIGERIA SAID THAT LDCS SHOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF SPECIAL UNGA DISARMAMENT, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND UNSCTD BEFORE DECIDING ON OS CONFERENCE.

7. UN SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM. SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED THE REPORT AND PROGRAM PROPOSED BY DR. MURTHY, UN EXPERT UNCLASSIFIED

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ON SPACE APPLICATIONS FOR 1977/1978 (A/AC.105/191;24-11-76). THE USSR, US AND PAKISTAN SUGGESTED THAT THE SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAM BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AREAS OTHER THAN REMOTE SENSING BUT DID NOT MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. MURTHY SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. LDCS (PAKISTAN, INDONESIA) PROPOSED INCREASED FUNDING TO EXPAND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN USE OF REMOTE SENSING DATA FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BRAZIL, JAPAN, SWEDEN, AND USSR SUMMARIZED CURRENT AND PROJECTED TRAINING PROGRAMS. SWEDEN ANNOUNCED DECISION TAKEN FEBRUARY 17 IN STOCKHOLM TO ALLOCATE \$50,000 FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A REMOTE SENSING WORKSHOP TO BE LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA.

8. ITU REP. DELIVERED LENGTHY STATEMENTS ON ITS PROGRAMS AND PLANS, INCLUDING PREPARATIONS FOR TELECOM AND RADIO-TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCES IN GENEVA. COSPAR REP. (PORTER) MADE BRIEF STATEMENT INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF SYMPOSIUM, COMMEMORATING W. NORDBERG, ON APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING TO FOOD RESOURCE PROBLEMS TO BE HELD IN TEL AVIV, JUNE 8-10 JUST BEFORE ANNUAL COSPAR MEETING. YOUNG

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